

PATENT
Serial No. 09/966,610
Amendment in Reply to Final Office Action of May 20, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 13-16 contain allowable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claims 8 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 1 and 11-12 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 13. Further, claims 14-16 have been amended to change their dependence from canceled claim 13 to claim 1. In addition, claims 17, 19, 21 and 23 have been amended to correct an informality. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 10-12 are in allowable form, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7, 9 and 14-24 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 1 and 11-12.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any informalities remain, the Examiner is requested to

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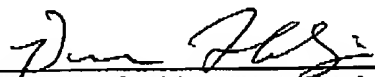
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telephone the undersigned in order to expedite allowance.

Please charge any fee deficiencies and credit any overpayments
to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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August 11, 2004